

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 DRC-01 EB-11 FEA-02 DODE-00

INT-08 DLOS-07 OIC-04 CG-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EPA-04 NSF-04

SCI-06 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 JUSE-00

OMB-01 SWF-02 /233 R

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EB/ORF - MR. CREEKMORE(PHONE)

FEA - MS. MASON (DRAFT)

DOD - COL. FEDELE (SUPS'

INTERIOR - MR. BERNHARDT (DRAFT)

D/LOS - MR. ESKIN (DRAFT)

L - MR. FELDMAN

L/PM - MR. MICHEL (DRAFT)

INR - MR. MCINTYRE

ARA/CAR - MR. WAUCHOPE (DRAFT)

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R 092041Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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CARACAS FOR LOS DEL

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, BF

SUBJ: : GCOB REQUEST FOR TALKS ON SHELF DELIMITATION

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REFS: A) NASSAU 818; B) NASSAU 1012

1. DEPARTMENT WELCOMES GCOB PROPOSAL FOR INITIATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF DISCUSSIONS, AND AGREES THAT EARLY INITIATION OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS IS DESIRABLE.

2. HOWEVER, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO PROPOSE SPECIFIC DATES FOR INITIATION OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PERSONNEL CONCERNED WITH CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUES LARGELY COMMITTED TO LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, U.S. INITIATING A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF CONTINENTAL SHELF QUESTIONS. THIS STUDY UNLIKELY TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE AUTUMN AT EARLIEST.

3. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND TO GCOB NOTE AS FOLLOWS.

4. (COMPLEMENTARY OPENING). THE UNITED STATES WELCOMES THIS PROPOSAL BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS, AND AGREES IN PRINCIPLE THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS OUGHT TO BE INITIATED AS SOON AS MUTUALLY CONVENIENT. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES NOTES THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS OF THE CHARACTER PROPOSED DURING THE NEXT

SEVERAL MONTHS IN VIEW OF THE REQUIREMENTS POSED BY THE PRESENT SESSION OF THE U.N. CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA IN CARACAS. THE UNITED STATES ALSO WISHES TO NOTE THAT IT IS JUST BEGINNING A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO THE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER STATES WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES SHARES A CONTINENTAL SHELF, INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS. THIS REVIEW MAY NOT BE COMPLETED FOR SOME TIME.

5. IN VIEW OF THESE MATTERS, THE UNITED STATES IS NOT ABLE TO SUGGEST DATES FOR THE INITIATION OF DISCUSSIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES SHARES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMA'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY, AND HOPES THAT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE MADE FOR THE EARLY INITIATION OF DISCUSSIONS. (CLOSING) END TEXT
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OF NOTE.

6. TIMING OF DISCUSSIONS ON LOCATION OF 200 METER ISOBATH WILL DEPEND ON AVAILABILITY OF HODGSON, PRESENTLY AT LOS CONFERENCE, CARACAS. DEPT LEAVES TO HODGSON DECISION WHETHER FURNISH TIMING INFORMATION TO EMBASSY OR DIRECTLY TO BAHAMIAN LOS DELEGATION. SISCO

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Message Attributes

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